

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 10 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Chair,

I am an irrigator in the Macquarie Valley, who is considered an eligible floodplain harvester. Our family began irrigating here in 1968, and have seen great changes within the industry since then. I have been involved with meetings and submissions for FloodPlain Harvesting [FPH] since this all began.

We as an industry need to have certainty with FPH. The problem I have is the inclusion of rainfall-runoff coming off irrigation fields still included, and needs to be officially exempted from FPH. Legally, I have to keep rainfall-runoff from our fields, on our farm, to keep the rivers and streams healthy, hence manage our farm responsibly and be aware of our environmental obligations. Rainfall-runoff complicates the overall metering, licencing and integrity of FPH. FPH to me means water flowing over a river bank, causing inundation across the land and hence captured and metered. We are at the breakout on the eastern end of the floodplain of the Macquarie River, and if we look at historical data, FPH is not available as often here, as it is on the lower end of the Macquarie floodplain, where it has more frequent breakouts.

We also have a Supplementary Water Licence, which is used in some years, when there are tributary flows from rivers above us. The Macquarie valley is not like the Northern Valleys, but has been lumped in with them, even though our systems operate somewhat differently.

So, in summary, I support FPH Licencing and Metering, but rainfall-runoff must be officially exempted. Supplementary licences should not be reduced, so that others can have a bigger water take [FPH] elsewhere.

Thankyou for taking the time to hear our responses.

Yours faithfully,